EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

Patent Abstracts of Japan

PUBLICATION NUMBER

: 10305590

PUBLICATION DATE

: 17-11-98

APPLICATION DATE

: 08-05-97

APPLICATION NUMBER

: 09117850

APPLICANT: MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD;

INVENTOR: ICHISE TOSHIHIKO;

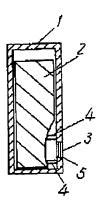
INT.CL.

: B41J 2/175

TITLE

SENSOR FOR DETECTING AMOUNT

OF REMAINING INK



ABSTRACT: PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a sensor for detecting the amount of remaining ink in an ink cartridge used in an ink-jet recording apparatus which can correctly detect the amount even when a sponge-like ink-absorbing body is set inside the ink cartridge.

> SOLUTION: The sensor includes a diaphragm bonded to a piezoelectric element. A predetermined distance is secured between the diaphragm and an ink-absorbing body 2 to prevent the diaphragm from coming in touch with the ink-absorbing body 2 set inside an ink cartridge and impregnated with ink even when the diaphragm comes in touch with the ink in the cartridge. In this state, a sensor element 3 is held at the ink cartridge.

COPYRIGHT: (C)1998,JPO